

**Board of Respiratory Care
Task Force Meeting
Minutes**

Date: February 26, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m., C.S.T.

Location: Health Related Boards
Poplar Conference Room
Heritage Place, Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243

Members Present: Colleen Schabacker, Board Member & Acting Moderator
Candace Partee, Board Member
Roger Major, Board Member
Darryl Jordan, MD., Board Member
Delmar Mack, EdD., Board Member

Staff Present: Marva Swann, Unit Director
Mary Webb, Board Administrator
Nicole Armstrong, Advisory Attorney
Elizabeth Miller, Director of Health Related Boards

Guests: Shane Keene, Board Consultant, ETSU
Dr. Don Samples, ETSU
John Williams, Representative of Tennessee Society of Respiratory Care
Shiva Bozarth, Office of General Counsel for the Board of
Polysomnography
David Johnson, Board Consultant, CSCC
Brevard Haynes, M.D.

Ms. Colleen Schabacker called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

Ms. Schabacker asked for introductions of everyone in attendance and invited anyone interested in speaking to do so.

Points discussed relating to Patient care / safety of the Polysomnographer bill were as follows:

- Support for licensure and education for Polysomnographers
- Respiratory Therapists are / are not capable of performing sleep studies with documentation of competency.

- Sleep diagnostics is included in the Respiratory Therapy scope of practice.
- Respiratory Therapists are more qualified to understand the comorbidities of patients with sleep disorders, by virtue of there training, than sleep technicians who have been trained through the current on-line A-Step program.
- Some fear the most qualified person will be taken out of the sleep lab because of the double standard set for Respiratory Therapists by the Polysomnographer bill (dual credential).
- 2012 grandfathering cut off date for four (4) schools in various regions of the state was felt by some to be too long with the concern the way the law is written the A-step program may be accepted indefinitely

Members of the Task Force felt they could not make recommendations for developing a position statement regarding the dual credentialing of respiratory therapists who provide sleep related services at this time. Members of the task force requested the presence of Board attorney Ernie Sykes at the next scheduled meeting to discuss the following:

1. Polysomnography trainees and technicians are not required to document competency prior to rendering services that are included in the respiratory scope of practice.
2. Are respiratory therapists now in violation of the law, when providing these services without the additional RPSGT credential?
3. Is a respiratory therapist who provides respiratory therapy services to sleep disorder patients in the hospital, home, center, etc. subject to Section 63-52-102 (a) or 63-52-107 (a) (5)?

Dr. Mack, knowing the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) had some concerns about the practice of polysomnography in Tennessee, asked to be put on record as stating, the AARC does not "tell this Board what to do."

The Task Force requested a Respiratory Care Board representative be present at the first scheduled Polysomnography Board meeting. Shiva Bozarth, counsel for the Polysomnography Board, stated he hoped to have the first meeting in April or May.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.